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RELEASED IN PART

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PTQ3809

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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	CIAE-00	OASY-00	DODE-00	EB-01	FBIE-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-10	L-01	ADS-00	M-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01
	P-01	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	PMB-00	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00	/032W	

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R 271351Z MAR 95
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0370
INFO RWANDA COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KIGALI 000912

ACCRA FOR AMBASSADOR, DCM, FREUND

E.O. 12356: NA
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, PHUM, RW, GH, LI, LE
SUBJECT: BRIEFING AT UNAMIR'S [REDACTED] BATTALION:
A SAVVY C.O. SUMS UP THE SITUATION

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1. C--ENTIRE TEXT

2. SUMMARY. THE COMMANDING OFFICE OF UNAMIR'S [REDACTED]
BATTALION IS A SMOOTH AND SAVVY POLITICAL OBSERVER WITH
PREVIOUS PEACEKEEPING EXPERIENCE IN [REDACTED]
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AND SOME EXPERIENCE IN POLITICAL-MILITARY ACTIVITIES BACK
HOME. HE SAYS THAT PEACEKEEPING IN RWANDA IS HARDER THAN
IN [REDACTED] BECAUSE THE SITUATION IN RWANDA IS
LESS CLEAR-CUT AND THE UNAMIR MISSION NOT WELL-ENOUGH
DEFINED; THAT TENSIONS ARE HIGH BETWEEN THE RPA AND ALL
UNAMIR ELEMENTS; AND THAT THE UNRESOLVED ISSUE OF LAST
YEAR'S GENOCIDE AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S
RESPONSE TO IT LIES BEHIND MUCH OF THE TENSION. HE IS
CONFIDENT OF THE MILITARY POSITION, BUT SEES A
DETERIORATING POLITICAL/ SECURITY SITUATION. END

1.4(D)

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E LANDFAIR
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 26 MAR 2015
DATE/CASE ID: 10 MAY 2005 200103014

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SUMMARY.

3. ACTING DCM, ON TDY FROM EMBASSY ACCRA, CALLED ON [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] COMMANDING OFFICER OF UNAMIR'S [REDACTED]
BATTALION [REDACTED] AT HIS HEADQUARTERS IN KIBUNGO IN
SOUTHEAST RWANDA MARCH 26. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] JOINED THE LATTER HALF OF THE TWO HOUR CONVERSATION.
[REDACTED] IS CURRENTLY [REDACTED] FIRST BATTALION, WHICH
REPLACED THE THIRD BATTALION, UNITS OF WHICH HAD BEEN IN
RWANDA SINCE JANUARY 1994, LAST OCTOBER. [REDACTED]

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IT WAS EASIER IN [REDACTED]

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4. UNAMIR'S [REDACTED] RECEIVES HIGH MARKS FROM ALL
OBSERVERS AS ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE OF THE NATIONAL
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CONTINGENTS HERE. THEY ARE ALSO ONE OF THE BEST-
EQUIPPED, THE U.S. HAVING SUPPLIED MOST OF THEIR HEAVIER
NBBDS. [REDACTED] COMES FROM A COUNTRY WITH A LONG
TRADITION OF PEACEKEEPING IN AFRICA, STARTING IN 1960 IN
[REDACTED] AND CONTINUING TODAY IN [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] SAYS THAT THE SITUATION IN RWANDA IS LESS CLEAR-
CUT THAN THOSE IN [REDACTED], WHERE HE AND THE
FIRST BATTALION HAVE RECENTLY SERVED. THIS IS PARTLY
BECAUSE THE UNAMIR MANDATE IS SOMEWHAT VAGUE AND UNSUITED
TO CONDITIONS ON THE GROUND. IN [REDACTED] THE SITUATION
WAS QUITE CLEAR-CUT: THERE WERE TWO OPPOSING FORCES, THE
UN FORCES SIMPLY INTERPOSED THEMSELVES BETWEEN THEM. THE
TROOPS MANNED ROADBLOCKS, CHECKPOINTS, HAD DAILY
OCCUPATIONS. EVEN IN [REDACTED] DOING [REDACTED]
PEACE ENFORCEMENT, ECOMOG CONTROLLED CERTAIN AREAS, THE
TROOPS HAD DAILY JOBS, ONE KNEW WHERE ONE WAS AND WHAT
ONE WAS ABOUT. BUT IN RWANDA, THE RPA MANS THE
HECKPOINTS AND THE ROADBLOCKS. [REDACTED] HAS SEVENTEEN
POSITIONS IN KIBUNGO PREFECTURE, UNAMIR'S SECTOR 2, AND
SHORT OF ROTATING THROUGH THOSE POINTS AS OBSERVERS, THE
MEN HAVE NO DAILY DUTIES. THE LACK OF MANDATE WAS MOST
OBVIOUS WHEN THE GENOCIDE STARTED, [REDACTED] AND MOST
OF UNAMIR PULLED OUT BECAUSE ITS MANDATE DID NOT INCLUDE

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INTERVENTION IN A GENOCIDAL CIVIL WAR. EVEN TODAY
[REDACTED] STANDING ORDERS WOULD NOT ALLOW HIM TO DO WHAT
HE SUPPOSES WOULD BE NECESSARY SHOULD GENOCIDE START
AGAIN.

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WHERE WERE YOU WHEN WE NEEDED YOU?

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5. AND THE GENOCIDE [REDACTED] IS AT THE
HEART OF THE MOUNTING TENSION BETWEEN UNAMIR AND THE RPA
OVER RECENT WEEKS, WITH RADIO RWANDA ACCENTUATING THE
NEGATIVE IN EVERY REPORTED INCIDENT BETWEEN UNAMIR FORCES
AND RWANDAN NATIONALS OR TROOPS. [REDACTED]
HAS BEEN SPARED SOME OF THE RESENTMENT BECAUSE SOME
[REDACTED] TROOPS REMAINED IN PLACE WHEN MOST OF UNAMIR
LEFT RWANDA FOLLOWING THE CIVIL WAR AND GENOCIDE OF APRIL
94. THEY

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WERE ABLE TO SAVE SOME LIVES, [REDACTED] IN
[REDACTED] FIRST ASSIGNMENT, GIKONGORO IN THE SOUTHWEST
(SECTOR 4), TENSIONS WERE LESS EVIDENT BECAUSE IT HAD
BEEN PART OF THE FRENCH-PROTECTED ZONE OF OPERATION
TURQUOISE, AND HAD BEEN SPARED MUCH OF THE VIOLENCE AND
GENOCIDE. BUT IN KIBUNGO THE WAR AND THE GENOCIDE ARE
ALL TOO OBVIOUS, AND THE PEOPLE AND THE RPA ARE LESS
HESITANT TO COMPLAIN THAT UNAMIR WAS NOT THERE TO STOP
THE KILLING IN APRIL '94.

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6. "THEY SEE US AND KNOW THAT WE ARE BETTER TRAINED,
BETTER ARMED, BETTER EQUIPPED THAN THEY ARE. OUR
UNIFORMS ARE SMARTER, AND WE HAVE CLEAN UNIFORMS EVERY
DAY. THE RPA FEELS THAT WE MAKE THEM LOOK BAD, AND THAT
ERODES THEIR AUTHORITY," [REDACTED] SAID. HE HEARS THE

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INFO LOG-00 AID-01 CIAE-00 OASY-00 DODE-00 EB-01 FBIE-00

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R 271351Z MAR 95
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 KIGALI 000912

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"WHERE WERE YOU WHEN WE NEEDED YOU" REFRAIN FROM HIS
OFFICIAL CONTACTS WITH RPA AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS, AND HE SAYS HIS MEN HEAR IT IN THEIR DAILY
CONTACT WITH THE POPULATION. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE
RESENTMENT, HE SAYS, THAT NO ONE CAME FROM THE UN TO STOP
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THE GENOCIDE, BUT NOW THE UN IS BACK MONITORING HUMAN
RIGHTS ISSUES AFTER THE WORST HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION OF
ALL -- GENOCIDE -- WENT UNOBSERVED, UNMONITORED AND
UNSTOPPED BY THE SAME UN AGENCIES AND NGOS NOW IN RWANDA.

STANDOFF IN KIBUNGO

7. THE TENSIONS WERE ILLUSTRATED BY A SECURITY INCIDENT
AT [] HQ MARCH 22. [] VERSION, SUPPORTED BY
A VIDEOTAPE OF SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS, IS THIS: A CIVILIAN
RAN INTO THE HQ COMPOUND BEING CHASED BY ANOTHER MAN,
ALSO DRESSED IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES, BUT CARRYING A HAND
GRENADE. [] MPS DISARMED THE LATTER, ARRESTED
BOTH. LOCAL RPA CLAIMED THAT THE SECOND MAN WAS A
GBNDARME MAKING A LEGITIMATE ARREST, THAT HE HAD BEEN
FORCED ONTO THE COMPOUND BY [] AND THAT BOTH HE
AND HIS PRISONER SHOULD BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY. TO
ENPORCE THIS DEMAND, THEY SURROUNDED THE CAMP WITH SOME

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THIRTY TO FORTY ARMED RPA. THE SITUATION WAS CALMED AFTER INTERVENTION BOTH FROM UNAMIR HQ AND RPA HIGHER-UPS, AND THE NEXT DAY [] HANDED OVER BOTH MEN TO LOCAL OFFICIALS. THE VIDEOTAPE OF THIS MEETING SHOWS AN AFFABLE AND MOST DIPLOMATIC [] DEFUSING TENSION WITH HUMOR, AND THE SEVERAL CLOSE-UP SHOTS OF THE GENDARME BELIB RPA CLAIMS THAT HE WAS BEATEN WHILE IN [] CUSTODY.

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8. TO EASE THE STRAIN WITH THE RPA, [] KEEPS THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN AND TRIES TO REACH OUT. A RECENT EVENT HE CITED WAS THE [] - RPA SOCCER MATCH, WHICH, PERHAPS UNFORTUNATELY, ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATED [] SUPERIORITY WITH A 3-0 VICTORY FOR [] OTHER OUTREACH EFFORTS INCLUDE REGULAR MEETINGS WITH LOCAL POLITICAL OFFICIALS, DAILY MEETINGS WITH RPA COUNTERPARTS. BUT SUSPICION AND HOSTILITY HAVE PREVENTED [] STARTING SPORTS CLUBS FOR CHILDREN AND OTHER HEARTS-AND-MINDS PROJECTS. THERE IS PARTICULAR SENSITIVITY ABOUT FOREIGN TROOPS GETTING TOO FRIENDLY WITH RWANDAN, ESPECIALLY TUTSI, WOMEN, AND [] KEEPS HIS MEN IN THEIR ENCAMPMENTS EXCEPT FOR ORGANIZED OUTINGS.

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BEHIND THE CONFUSION: HOW TO DEAL WITH GENOCIDE

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THE SITUATION IN RWANDA TODAY.

10. [] SUMMED UP THE SITUATION BY SAYING THAT HE TELLS NEW ARRIVALS NOT TO BE CONCERNED THAT THE SITUATION SEEMS CONFUSING, RESPONSES TO IT CONTRADICTORY. THE LONGER HE HAS BEEN HERE, WITH HIS THREE YEARS OF PEACEKEEPING EXPERIENCE, THE MORE CONFUSING AND CONTRADICTORY HE HAS FOUND IT. BEHIND EVERYTHING LIES THE GENOCIDE, AND THE RWANDAN RESENTMENT THAT OUTSIDERS DID NOTHING TO STOP IT AND THEN CAME BACK TO PREACH JUSTICE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND RECONCILIATION AFTER IT WAS OVER. HE DOES NOT THINK THAT FOREIGNERS WILL BE ABLE TO RESOLVE THE ISSUES OF GENOCIDE AND NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. RAWSON

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